

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 MC-02

IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 AID-20 DRC-01 /118 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1816

DA WASHDC

INFO DOD WASHDC

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

USARSO FT AMADOR CZ

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 QUITO 4785/1

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI OVIP EC

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSION OF MEETING OF ARMY SECRETARY CALLAWAY WITH ECUADOREAN ARMY COMMANDER

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE HAS BEEN CLEARED WITH SECRETARY CALLAWAY

1. PARTICIPANTS: SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, HONORABLE HOWARD H. CALLAWAY; COMMANDER GENERAL OF THE ECUADOREAN ARMY, GENERAL MARIO LOPEZ SERRANO; DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION BREWSTER R. HEMENWAY; DEFENSE ATTACHE, COL. JOHN BLAIKIE; MILITARY ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY, COL. CHARLES W. DYKE; ECUADOREAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, COL. MARIANO CEVALLOS; OTHER EC ARMY STAFF MEMBERS.

2. AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES CONNECTED WITH SECRETARY CALLAWAY'S CALL ON THE ARMY COMMANDER, GENERAL LOPEZ DREW OUT A DOCUMENT WHICH HE CALLED AN ECUADOREAN STAFF STUDY OF THE OFFERS OF VARIOUS MILITARY MISSIONS TO ECUADOR FOR TRAINING AND MATERIEL. HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO THE MISSION SENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY TO ECUADOR IN MAY 1974.

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3. GENERAL LOPEZ SAID THAT HE WAS NOT IN THE COUNTRY DURING THE TIME OF THE VISIT OF THE U.S. ARMY MISSION BUT HE HAD THOUGHT THAT IT HAD BEEN MADE UNDERSTOOD TO THE MISSION MEMBERS THAT ECUADOR WAS NOT INTERESTED IN ANY SECOND-HAND, REFURBISHED, REBUILT, OR ANYTHING OTHER THAN NEW MATERIEL. HE SAID THAT ECUADOR WAS NOT INTERESTED IN THE M-60 TANK (IT'S SO HEAVY THAT IT WOULD BREAK THE BRIDGES HERE). HE SAID THAT THE U.S. MISSION HAD OFFERED M-48 TANKS REBUILT. COL. BLAIEKIE SAID THAT THESE WERE GOOD TANKS WITH DIESEL ENGINES AND WOULD SERVE ECUADOR'S PURPOSES. COL. BLAIEKIE SAID THAT THE M-48 HAD PROVEN SUPERIOR IN VIET NAM TO THE RUSSIAN TANKS WHICH HAVE BEEN SOLD ELSEWHERE IN HEMISPHERE. GENERAL LOPEZ SAID AGAIN THAT ECUADOR DID NOT WANT REBUILT M-48 TANKS AND ASKED IF THERE WAS NOT SOMETHING ELSE IN THIS LINE U.S. COULD OFFER.

4. HE SAID THAT ECUADOR WAS INTERESTED IN BOTH 105 AND 155MM HOWITZERS. COL. BLAIEKIE POINTED OUT THE HIGH COST OF PURCHASE AND MAINTENANCE FOR A SELF-PROPELLED 155 AND SUGGESTED THAT ECUADOR FIRST FILL ITS NEEDS WITH 105MM HOWITZERS. GENERAL LOPEZ SAID THAT WHATEVER ECUADOR BOUGHT IN WEAPONS AS WELL AS OTHER LINES HAD TO BE NEW.

5. GENERAL LOPEZ SAID THAT THE MOST URGENT NEED OF ECUADOR AT THE MOMENT WAS FOR 100 D-7 CATERPILLAR TRACTORS. HE SAID THAT THE VISITING ARMY MISSION HAD TOLD HIS STAFF THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN FAST DELIVERY AT REASONABLE PRICES OF THE CATS. LATER, HOWEVER, WHEN THE MISSION FURTHER COMMUNICATED WITH THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT THE CATS DID NOT APPEAR AT ALL. INSTEAD, THE US ARMY HAD SUGGESTED A VERY HIGH-PRICED FORM OF EQUIPMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL THAT ECUADOR HAD NO INTEREST IN. COL. PUMA, THE ENGINEER STAFF MEMBER, POINTED OUT THAT ECUADOR HAD A COMMITMENT TO PREPARE IMMEDIATELY THE GROUND FOR THE REFINERY BEING BUILT AT ESMERALDAS BY THE JAPANESE FIRM SUMITOMA. IF PREPARATIONS WERE NOT COMPLETED BY OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR, THE REFINERY COSTS WOULD ROCKET AND THEN ADDITIONAL COSTS WOULD HAVE TO BE PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A BASIC IMMEDIATE NEED FOR A MINIMUM OF 15 D-7 CATS. GENERAL LOPEZ ASKED

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SECRETARY CALLAWAY IF HE COULD BE OF HELP IN THIS REGARD. SECRETARY CALLAWAY SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS RIGHT AWAY AND HE HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE A POSITIVE RESPONSE.

6. GENERAL LOPEZ SAID THAT ECUADOR WAS VERY INTERESTED IN THE TOW MISSILE AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT ITS AVAILABILITY. SECRETARY CALLAWAY SAID THAT THE U.S. ARMY'S TO&E FOR TOW MISSILES WAS VERY FAR FROM BEING FILLED AND THAT

PRODUCTION OF THESE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS WAS VERY SLOW. IN ADDITION HE SAID THAT WE ARE SUPPLYING WHATEVER TOW MISSILES WE CAN SPARE FROM THE PRODUCTION LINE TO SUPPORT ISRAEL'S NEEDS. COL. BLAIE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THE LAW MISSILE WAS AN EQUALLY EFFECTIVE WEAPON AS THE TOW AT DISTANCES UP TO 1000 METERS, AND IT COST MANY TIMES LESS TO PURCHASE AND TO OPERATE. RANGES UP TO 1000 METERS ARE THE MAXIMUM, COL. BLAIE SAID, THAT ECUADOR WOULD GENERALLY REQUIRE GIVEN THE NATURE OF MOST OF ECUADOR'S TERRAIN. GENERAL LOPEZ LOOKED FIRST AT COL. BLAIE AND THEN AT SECRETARY CALLAWAY AND REPEATED THAT ECUADOR WAS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING THE TOW MISSILE.

7. GENERAL LOPEZ POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS A GREAT ALL ROUND NEED FOR ARMY VEHICLES: JEEPS, TRUCKS, ESPECIALLY TRUCKS TO PULL ARTILLERY AND PLATFORM TRUCKS. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. ARMY HAD RECENTLY SOLD TO A U.S. COMMERCIAL DEALER 300 BRAND NEW JEEPS. THESE JEEPS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO AN ECUADOREAN DEALER FOR RE-SALE TO THE ECUADOREAN ARMY. WHY WAS IT, GENERAL LOPEZ ASKED, THAT THE U.S. ARMY COULD NOT MAKE A DIRECT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DEAL ON SUCH VEHICLES RATHER THAN HAVING TO GO THROUGH TWO COST-INCREASING INTERMEDIARIES? SECRETARY CALLAWAY AGREED THAT THIS WAS A MATTER THAT THE U.S. ARMY WOULD CHECK INTO ALSO.

8. GENERAL LOPEZ AND COL. PUMA EMPHASIZED THE REQUIREMENTS OF ECUADOR'S ENGINEER BATTALIONS. THERE ARE NOW TWO SUCH BATTALIONS AND THEY ARE COMMITTED, BECAUSE THIS IS PEACE TIME, TO CIVIL WORKS, MAINLY ROAD AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION. ECUADOR HAS NO COMBAT ENGINEER FORCE. IT INTENDS TO CREATE FROM SCRATCH TWO COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALIONS AND NEEDS ALL THE EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO THIS EFFORT.

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 MC-02

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

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9. ECUADOR ALSO HAS A NEED FOR FIELD HOSPITAL AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. THE RESPONSE OF THE U.S. MISSION GENERAL LOPEZ SAID, WAS FOR VINTAGE FIELD HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT. ECUADOR WANTS THE LATEST. AS REGARDS COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, HE SAID THE U.S. HAD OFFERED COMPONENTS MADE UP OF VACUUM TUBES WHILE THE REST OF THE WORLD HAD LONG PROGRESSED TO SOLID STATE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT.

10. IN DISCUSSING ECUADOR'S TRAINING NEEDS, GENERAL LOPEZ SAID, THAT THERE WAS AN IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENT FOR FIVE OF HIS STAFF OFFICERS TO RECEIVE HIGH-LEVEL TRAINING IN THEIR SPECIFIC FIELDS: LOGISTICS, MEDICAL AND SURGICAL, AND OTHERS. MR. HEMENWAY DETAILED TO GENERAL LOPEZ THE LEGAL PROBLEM THAT THE U.S. FACED IN TRAINING: ONLY 31 COUNTRIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR GRANT TRAINING OUTSIDE THE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND ECUADOR FOR REASONS OF RECENT HISTORY WAS NOT ONE OF THEM. ECUADOR COULD RECEIVE TRAINING IN PANAMA TODAY IF IT WERE WILLING TO PAY FOR IT OR IT COULD RECEIVE TRAINING IN THE U.S. AS MAP TRAINING CASE BUT THIS WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE EXPENSIVE. IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE SUFFICIENT MAP TRAINING FUNDS AVAILABLE TO GIVE THE FIVE OFFICERS NAMED ENGLISH
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TRAINING IN THE U.S. PLUS THE REQUIRED TECHNICAL TRAINING. SECRETARY CALLAWAY EXPLAINED TO GENERAL LOPEZ THAT THE 31 COUNTRY PROBLEM HAD TO DO WITH U.S. LAW AND WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CHANGE IMMEDIATELY BUT HE PROMISED TO DO WHATEVER HE COULD TO SEE THAT ECUADOR WAS SOON INCLUDED AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH TRAINING. IT WAS AGREED THAT GENERAL LOPEZ'S STAFF WOULD MAKE A DETAILED TRAINING PROPOSAL FOR THESE FIVE OFFICERS THROUGH THIS EMBASSY.

11. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING GENERAL LOPEZ REPEATED THE DESIRE OF THE ECUADOREAN ARMY TO RE-ESTABLISH CLOSE TRAINING AND SUPPLY RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. ARMY BUT SAID THAT HE, AS THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICER IN THE ECUADOREAN ARMY, WAS REQUIRED TO ASSURE HIS NATION'S SECURITY AS EFFECTIVELY AS HE COULD AND AS QUICKLY AS HE COULD. HE, THEREFORE, ASKED SECRETARY CALLAWAY IF HE COULD GIVE HIM SOME CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF U.S. COLLABORATION IN AS SHORT A TIME AS POSSIBLE, INITIALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE D-7 CATERPILLAR TRACTORS, JEEPS AND OTHER VEHICULAR MATERIEL, AS WELL AS FOR THIS PRIORITY TRAINING REQUIREMENT. SECRETARY CALLAWAY SAID THAT HE WOULD DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE, WITHOUT DELAY

12. COMMENT: THE MEETING WAS FRANK, OPEN AND BUSINESS-LIKE. GENERAL LOPEZ THROUGHOUT SEEMED GENUINELY ANXIOUS TO RESTORE THE PAST TRAINING AND SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. FOLLOWING THE MEETING SECRETARY CALLAWAY WAS ABLE TO ARRANGE THE POSSIBILITY OF PROMPT DELIVERY OF THE 15 MOST NEEDED D-17 CATS, AND SO INFORMED GENERAL LOPEZ THAT EVENING.
HEMENWAY

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